

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NASA SPACE MOMENT AND PERILS OF CHINESE DRYWALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, it's a critical time for NASA and our Nation's leadership in space, as you well know.

With the looming retirement of the space shuttle and the risks of a growing space gap, we are losing tens of thousands of additional jobs across the United States. These are jobs in industries that develop the cutting-edge technology that raises our standard of living and helps American businesses compete.

NASA has been at the cutting edge of technology, leading to so many devices and luxuries that we use every single day. Imagine what a day without NASA products would be like.

First, you may not have had a good night's sleep if you normally sleep on one of those temper foam mattresses or pillows, which were originally designed by NASA as a shock absorber. You may have even overslept without NASA's quartz timing in your alarm clock.

Being green won't help you get ready for work in the morning if you have a solar hot water heater installed in your roof, because cosmetics, toothpaste and many perfumes find their roots in NASA.

Before you head out the door, you may have difficulty getting an accurate weather forecast due to the lack of weather satellites coming out of our Nation's space program.

Better use a landline telephone to call work and let them know you are running a little behind, because cell phones and other wireless devices will be out of service on a day without NASA-derived technology.

Getting to work might be a challenge as well, particularly if you drive a hybrid. The lithium-ion battery in your hybrid was developed with NASA engineering expertise and tested at the Kennedy Space Center. Get rid of that temper foam seat on your motorcycle that you might ride to work.

Don't plan on flying to that vacation or important job conference. NASA-developed flight tracking and management software is used by air traffic controllers. It probably won't surprise you that flight safety software was developed by NASA. Just in case you find yourself on an airline, it may be a bumpy ride without NASA software that informs the pilots of turbulent conditions.

Work may be a little difficult too without access to NASA computer technology and their wireless headsets.

These are just some of the reasons we must also support the President's promise to close the space gap between

the shuttle and the Constellation Program and keep America first in space.

I will share more about NASA technology with you in our next space moment.

In the meantime, on an unrelated but another important topic, as a member of the Contaminated Drywall Caucus and a representative of an area impacted by contaminated drywall, I wanted to take a few minutes to draw the attention of my colleagues to this also very important issue.

Between 2004 and 2008, many homes were built using what has turned out to be organically contaminated drywall. Homes in 26 States and the District of Columbia are affected. It is particularly problematic in areas like Florida where we have high humidity.

A little over a year ago, it was discovered that the source of a number of corrosion issues and health symptoms were likely due to contaminated drywall originating in China. Since then, we have been working hard to find a solution, and what we have discovered is pretty disturbing.

The contaminated drywall consists of toxic and semi-toxic substances which release harmful gases. Many of these homes are filled with a pungent sulfuric odor which has since been linked to adverse health conditions. Some families have already been forced to move out of their homes for fear of long-term health effects.

These gases are also responsible for devastating corrosion to many standard household materials such as copper and brass fittings, air conditioner coils, electrical systems, and even fire alarms. We don't know if there is a valid remediation protocol short of pulling all of the contaminated boards out and replacing them.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been tasked as the lead Federal agency and is working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency to find solutions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission will soon release a study to answer some of the questions. They are also working on a remediation protocol.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission must work closely with all parties, seriously consider the results of private studies and share the results of their own studies with all stakeholders. We need all parties to be part of a quick and permanent solution.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all those who are working so hard on this issue and in calling on the CPSC to bring forward their study results quickly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORIAM: DR. RITA HOCOG INOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, in the Northern Mariana Islands, as in any developing area of the world, there are very few people who achieve the highest of academic distinctions, the doctorate degree. Even fewer are the individuals who reach this achievement and then are willing to return home with their knowledge and skills. So it is a sad day, indeed, and a terrible loss to the Northern Mariana Islands when death takes from us such a person.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos was born on the island of Rota. She grew up in Songsong Village there, attending elementary and junior high school. At the age of 18, she began teaching at Rota Elementary School. It was not uncommon a generation ago for persons without college degrees to be teachers in the Northern Marianas. We had to make do and lift ourselves up by our own bootstraps.

But Rita Inos was not satisfied to be an educator lacking in education. After 4 years of classroom teaching, she returned to school as a student and completed her bachelor of arts degree in bilingual education at the University of Hawaii of Manoa in 1979.

She brought her new education and skills home, working as principal in Rota schools for 10 years. At the same time she continued her own education with a determination that was an inspiration to all who knew her. By 1983, Rita Inos had completed her course work towards a master's degree in educational anthropology from California State University and had been awarded the master of arts in school administration and supervision degree from San Jose State University.

Throughout this time she was, of course, a role model, not only to the students of Rota but to her professional colleagues as well. Rita Inos seems to have had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and an undeterrable determination to reach the highest level of education and achievement. That was clear to all.

Her influence spread. She was asked to first work for the Center for Advancement of Pacific Education and later in the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, beginning as director of programs and services and then becoming deputy director of PREL overall as a whole.

Of course, all the while, Rota Inos was pursuing her doctorate. She earned